

Thursday, February 3, 2022

Capital Planning 2/3/2022 7:30pm

Via Zoom

7:30 PM	Call to Order
	Committee Organization for FY23
	Overview of FY23 Capital Requests Submitted
	ARPA Funding
	Schedule of Upcoming Meetings
	Other Business
	Adjourn

Attendance:

Committee; Steve Jelenik, Ed DeLuca, Dave Arsenault, Zack Burns, Missy Reed (non-voting member; arrived at 7:35)

Absent: Peter McManus

Others Attending: Denise Dembkoski

All participants attending remotely via zoom.

Called to Order at 7:34pm

Discussion of committee Organization for FY23

Motion: Nominate Steve Jelenik as Chair by Dave Arsenault, 2nd DeLuca.

Passed unanimously by present members: Jelenik, Arsenault, Burns, DeLuca

Motion: Nominate Ed DeLuca as Clerk by Dave Arsenault, 2nd Jelenik.

Passed unanimously by present members: Jelenik, Arsenault, Burns, DeLuca

Overview of FY23 Capital Requests Submitted

Committee reviewed the scope of the projects to understand the extent of the FY23 requests. The sum is around \$18M, without the Town Hall Renovation included. Major contributors are the Randall Library renovation, Lake Boon Dam, Stow Acres Phase 2 and the Town Building water system upgrade.

There are items in the list that may be moved or partly moved to later years. Those discussion will take place at future meetings. There are items that are critically important for this year, the dam for example.

The town water system will be designed to draw water from Pompo and current system will be decommissioned.

Denise Dembkoski discussed giving all CP committee members access to the cleargov.com capital budget pages. Jelenik will send her the committee members' email addresses.

Discussion on the need for a Town Building generator - power outages require sending employee's home. The estimated costs are being reviewed and may be reduced.

Discussion of the capital implications of the consolidation of the cemetery and highway departments. There is a request for feasibility study for a new highway barn. This request may be postponed, the committee will have discussions with the Highway Dept about how this fits into schedule of consolidation and the current use of the old fire station.

Discussion of the Library Renovation: Cost is high, some funding will come from Community Preservation Act funds, some will be borrowing by the town, a significant fund raising effort is taking place, Library Trustees have committed \$500K and the Hale Trust about \$400K. The current plan is slight more expensive than the others under consideration, but has strong support. Full ADA compliance is included in the building plan. The Library presentation to the Select Board was noted as being very informative and is available on the town website.

Discussion of the police requests for tasers, body cameras and a replacement vehicle. It was noted that if tasers replacement was done on a regular basis it would not be a capital item, it is only when all of them are being replace at once that the cost rises above the \$10K limit. Body cameras might similarly be considered operational expenses rather than capital expenses. The new tasers are safer, they have distinct colors so then are not confused for hand guns. Going forward each officer will have a taser in addition to their firearm, currently they are shared. State grants for body cameras were discussed. To qualify there needs to be approval from the police union. The union has requested considerations in exchange for body camera approval. It is likely that the body cameras will be purchased without a state grant.

ARPA Funding

Dembkoski discussed the state ARPA funds, how they can be used and the required authorization. The town received \$2.1M in American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The Select Board has directed \$500K to be spent on capital items. The Town Administrator is charged with coming up with a list of items and the Select Board authorizes the spending. This spending occurs without town meeting votes.

The role of the Capital Planning Committee was discussed. Burns outlined the issues related to the timeline of Town Administrator requests being made public in the Select Board agenda, and the Board voting 3-4 days later. Formal CP Committee review is not possible under these conditions.

The committee and Dembkoski discussed the type of projects she had in mind for ARPA funding. All of the projects will be pulled from the current list of capital requests. Selection will likely include several smaller items that can be purchased and put to use quickly.

Committee members raised a few other possibilities for funding priorities: town water issues in the town center and lower village as an example, contributions to the Library renovation and road projects were also discussed.

Dembkoski noted that in addition to the \$500K in ARPA capital funds for this year, the select board has allocated \$600K for next year. The question to the committee was whether it makes sense to move the \$600K forward and spend it in FY23 given the large number of capital items. There was no consensus on this issue from the committee. The committee suggested that the select board consider the 5-year capital plan, which needs more detailed information, when making the decision on whether to move the \$600k into FY23 or leave it in FY24.

Dembkoski discussed items she is currently considering for ARPA capital spending: the asphalt hot box; the defibrillators, the tasers, the cameras, the Sudbury road engineering design work because that's something that we need in order to get grants and the engineering design work for complete streets. The gate at Pine Bluff maybe included as well, but probably does not fit within the \$500K total allocation.

Schedule of upcoming meetings

Upcoming meetings will be on 17-Feb, 10-March & 31-March.

Other business

None

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 8:58pm - Moved by Arsenault, 2nd by DeLuca.

Passed unanimously by members present: Jelenik, Burns, DeLuca, Arsenault.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed DeLuca, Clerk